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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Art Unit 1637

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/600,581; Filed: June 23, 2003
For: **Molecular Detection Systems Utilizing Reiterative Oligonucleotide
Synthesis**
Inventor: Michelle M. HANNA
Our Ref: 2072.0010002/MAC/SJE

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Reply to Restriction Requirement; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Simon J. Elliott
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 54,083

MAC/SJE:cpn
Enclosures
521901_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michelle M. HANNA

Appl. No.: 10/600,581

Filed: June 23, 2003

For: **Molecular Detection Systems
Utilizing Reiterative
Oligonucleotide Synthesis**

Confirmation No.: 8564

Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Kim, Young J.

Atty. Docket: 2072.0010002/MAC/SJE

Reply to Restriction Requirement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claims 55-71, 113, 114, 130-135 and 138-148. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

This election is made *with* traverse.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that restriction Groups I, II and IV have been classified within the same class and subclass. Hence, a search for art relevant to the examination of Group I will identify art relevant to the examination of Groups II and IV. Thus, even if the restriction requirement was not improper, examination of at least these three Groups together will not constitute an undue burden.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and rejoin the claims of Groups II and IV with those of elected Group I; or, at least, those of Group IV with Group I.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Simon J. Elliott, Ph.D.
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Date: April 20, 2006

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